THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A Task Force was constituted by Ministry of External Affairs to review India's existing positions on disarmament and non-proliferation issues and to make recommendations in the light of India's status as a nuclear-weapon state, India's security interests, present international realities and possible developments. The Report of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.

Turmoil in Sri Lanka

2238. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the current turmoil in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any request for intervention in the turmoil;

(c) whether Government has otherwise analysed the scenario with its repercussions, if any, on the country; and

(d) the steps, if any, Government is contemplating?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India is closely monitoring developments in Sri Lanka and is concerned about the recent upsurge in the violence and conflict in that country. Our policy towards Sri Lanka is based on the conviction that there is no military solution to the conflict. The way forward lies in a peacefully negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all communities in Sri Lanka, including the Tamils. It is with this in mind that we have welcomed as a first step the intention of the Government of Sri Lanka to fully implement the 13th Amendment.

Tour Operators for Haj Pilgrimage

2239. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Private Tour Operators, who are allowed to operate the Haj pilgrimage in the country;

(b) the names of the tour operators, whose quota has been increased for the current year; and

(c) the budget spent for Haj programme for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) the names of the Private Tour Operators, who were allowed to operate for Haj-2007 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No increase has been made in the quota of any of the tour operators for the current year (Haj-2007).

(c) The expenditure incurred by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in connection with Haj arrangements for the last three years is as follows:—

Financial year	Expenditure incurred by MEA
2004-05	Rs. 21,18,30,030
2005-06	Rs. 24,87,75,665
2006-07	Rs. 23,35,42,728